

# CITY OF TAUNTON

MASSACHUSETTS

Established 1639

## Historic District Commission

William A. Manganiello, Chair  
Barbara Mullen, Vice Chair  
Robert D. Dickerman  
Charles Thayer  
Michele Monteiro  
Joseph Norte  
Steve Rogers



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Taunton, Massachusetts 02780

Colleen Ellis, Secretary

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### MINUTES – AUGUST 26, 2021

A regular meeting of the Historic District Commission was held on Thursday, August 26, 2021. Present were William Manganiello, Steve Rogers, Michele Monteiro, Joseph Norte, Robert Dickerman and Dr. Charles Thayer.

Meeting called to order at 7:01 p.m.

#### **New Business/New Matters**

**4 North Walker Street** – The City had asked the Commission for guidance as to any conditions that they would place on the City's sale of 4 North Walker Street. It is listed in the Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System (MACRIS) as the Oakland School. The history states that although it has been significantly altered, through the widening and replacement of its original doorway, this structure represents one of the two early district schools still standing in Oakland. Built in 1849 it was moved in 1875 from its original site on the corner of Tremont and North Walker Streets to the present location to make way for the construction of a larger school building.

Subsequent uses of the building include its conversion to a firehouse, grange hall, garden club meeting house and jaycees building.

What it comes down to for the Commission is that the City is planning to sell this building as it is not needed for the real estate holdings or property necessary for the City. There may be interest in this property by an abutter. When you look at this site, it is extremely small, the building pretty much occupies the entire lot, there is no room for a septic system installation. There was talk by the Law Department to restricting this to non-residential, but that is not within the Commission's purview. The Law Department was looking for some insight from the Commission as to what the Commission would like to see. Commissioner Manganiello said he

would suggest, and this is an open public meeting it is not a hearing, so what they are making tonight is recommendations. They are not making any final dispositions or direct orders pertaining to the preservation or continued use of this structure. That would need to be done at an open public hearing. When there is a new owner, they would have to come before the Commission and apply for a Certificate of Appropriateness to deal with this building and at that time they would get to the specifics. Commissioner Manganiello said he would suggest, based on the history of the building and the age of the building if the Commission would consider this building to be preferentially preserved. That is the key language for the preservation of this structure. Would the Commission prefer that this be preferentially preserved because of its age and history and potential significance to the Oakland section of the City?

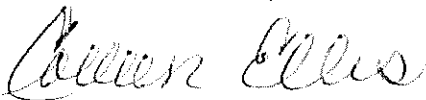
Discussed was asking the City, if this property is sold, to put a requirement in any of the sales documents or even in the deed that any alteration or work to the exterior of this building must be approved by the Historic District Commission. It was said that the Commission does not have a say on the interior of the building. The building does not have to stay on that site, but it would have to be preserved at its new site, within the City.

Commissioner Thayer made a motion to recommend to the Council and the Law Department that the structure at 4 North Walker Street be preferentially preserved. Commissioner Norte seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Commissioner Norte made a motion to recommend that a condition be placed in the appropriate documents including the deed that whoever may purchase this parcel be required to come before this Historic District Commission to review and seek approval for any work done to the exterior of this building, and that the existing owner be obligated to do so as well. Commissioner Rogers seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Dickerman and seconded by Commissioner Thayer and unanimously passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Colleen Ellis".

Colleen Ellis  
Secretary to the Commission